
Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness Report

Results from 2008 Survey Sent to Missouri's
Licensed LTC Facilities



Division of Regulation and Licensure
Section for Long Term Care Regulation

In light of the many emergency events that occurred in the past couple of years, the Section for Long Term Care Regulation (SLCR) conducted a survey of all of Missouri's licensed long term care facilities. Each facility was asked to provide information concerning the development and contents of their emergency plans. SLCR received 487 anonymous responses, which included the following information.

Facility's level of care:

- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) – 257 = 52% response rate
- Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) – 21 = 60% response rate
- Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) – 74 = 54% response rate
- Residential Care Facilities (RCF) – 135 = 28% response rate

Did any of the following participate in the development of your emergency plan?

	SNF%	ICF%	ALF%	RCF%	AVG%
Local Emergency Operations Center	26	24	22	20	23
Local Health Department	18	19	15	18	17
Fire Department	69	81	66	47	66
Ambulance Service	23	19	24	19	21
Police Department	28	29	28	21	26
Sheriff's Department	15	5	12	13	11
Red Cross	10	0	5	4	5
Other Facilities	40	33	40	27	35

Does your emergency plan contain the following emergency contact information?

	SNF%	ICF%	ALF%	RCF%	AVG%
Ambulance Service	84	90	89	78	85
Local Emergency Operations Center	56	57	54	56	56
Police Department	88	76	91	78	83
Red Cross	43	19	32	32	31
Sheriff's Department	61	48	59	51	55
Regional SLCR Office	48	38	38	35	40
Residents' family phone numbers	49	67	72	73	65
Facility staff phone numbers	87	90	86	80	86

Does your emergency plan assign specific roles to staff members?

	SNF%	ICF%	ALF%	RCF%	AVG%
Yes	92	90	92	73	87
No	5	5	7	21	9
No response	3	5	1	6	4

Are your staff members familiar with using the following emergency equipment?

	SNF%	ICF%	ALF%	RCF%	AVG%
Generator	64	62	32	33	48
Fire Extinguisher	98	95	99	97	97
Communication Equipment	77	74	81	77	77

Does your emergency plan address the following?

	SNF%	ICF%	ALF%	RCF%	AVG%
Power Outages	96	90	86	83	89
Alternative Power	77	62	62	50	63
Staffing Needs	76	86	78	64	76
Facility Evacuation	98	95	99	92	96
Staff Accompanying Residents in Transit	64	62	76	61	67
Areas of Refuge	85	81	81	79	81
Sheltering in Place	78	76	82	79	79
Resident Medications	79	76	85	83	81

What communication capabilities does your facility have available during emergencies?

	SNF%	ICF%	ALF%	RCF%	AVG%
Land Line	91	95	90	88	91
Non-Cordless Land Line	32	28	54	51	41
Cellular Telephone	89	90	89	91	90
Two-way Radio	31	38	26	24	30
Short Wave Radio	2	0	3	4	2
Satellite Radio	0	0	3	2	1

Is your facility part of any plan to receive residents from other facilities in emergencies?

	SNF%	ICF%	ALF%	RCF%	AVG%
Yes	61	48	58	37	51
No	34	52	41	56	46
No Response	5	0	1	7	3

What emergency supplies does your facility have on hand?

	SNF%	ICF%	ALF%	RCF%	AVG%	SNF	ICF	ALF	RCF
Food	92	100	99	93	96	3-28 days	3-28 days	3-28 days	3-28 days
Water	84	95	96	74	87	1 gal. – 14 days	1 gal. – 14 days	1 gal. – 14 days	1 gal. – 14 days
Fuel	42	52	27	28	37	2 days - 10,000 gal.	2 days – 10,000 gal.	2 days – 10,000 gal.	2 days – 10,000 gal.

Do you provide resident families with information concerning your facility's emergency plan?

	SNF%	ICF%	ALF%	RCF%	AVG%
Yes	38	28	55	46	42
No	54	67	37	46	51
No Response	8	5	8	8	7

It appears that many of Missouri's long term care facilities are not adequately prepared for emergencies. Specific areas of concern are the lack of participation by local emergency personnel in the development of emergency plans, as well as the fact that many facilities' plans do not include contact information for emergency resources. Other areas of concern include the fact that 96% of facilities' plans include plans for facility evacuation; however, only 67% include plans for staff to accompany residents during evacuation. Only 41% of facilities indicated that they had non-cordless landline telephones. During some emergency situations, the only form of communication available is landline telephones. It also appears that many facilities do not have sufficient emergency supplies, especially water.

SLCR provided the following recommendations to long term care facilities:

- Each facility should develop individualized emergency plans to address the unique needs of the facility and residents, including:
 - Contact information for local emergency resources.
 - Plans for staff to accompany residents in case of evacuation.
- Each facility should review their emergency plan on a scheduled cycle, to ensure information included is up to date.
- Local emergency preparedness personnel should be involved in the development and review of each facility's emergency plan.
- Each facility should have a non-cordless landline telephone available.
- Each facility should have an adequate supply of emergency supplies, especially water.

This report was shared with Missouri's licensed long term care facilities, long-term care industry associations and stakeholders, as well as the county emergency planners, SEMA, Homeland Security's regional planners, and the Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism.

The Section for Long Term Care Regulation welcomes questions at (573) 526-8514.